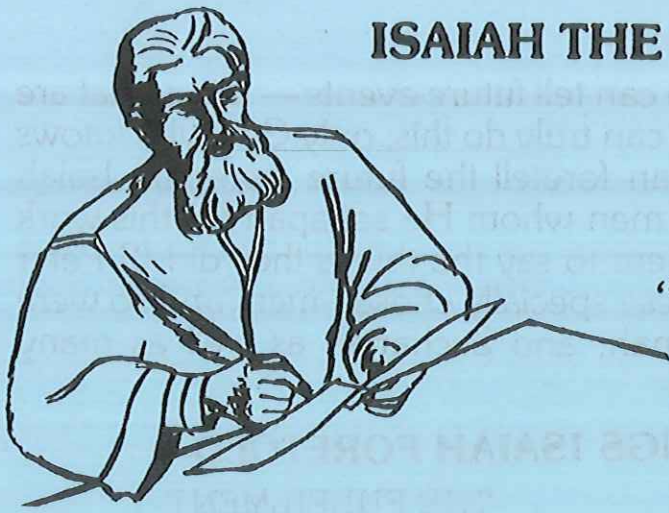


## ISAIAH THE PROPHET



*"These things said Esaias,  
when he saw His  
glory and spake of him"*

*Isaiah 7*

### ISAIAH — A PROPHET TO JUDAH

The prophets Elijah and Elisha were sent to the 10 tribes, the kingdom of Israel in the north. Now we are to consider Isaiah one of the prophets who were sent by God to the kings and people of the two tribes in the south, the kingdom of Judah. This is the kingdom over which Rehoboam had ruled. These kings were of the line of David.

Isaiah was sent about 700 years before Christ to Judah, and the kings that ruled during that time were Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1). In all, Isaiah prophesied for about 50 years.

### THE KINGS WHO REIGNED IN JUDAH DURING ISAIAH'S LIFETIME

**UZZIAH** — (2 Chronicles 26:4-5). He was a king who did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh until he became strong, and then "his heart was lifted up to his destruction." He entered into the temple to burn incense, for which God struck him with leprosy (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).

**JOTHAM** — (2 Chronicles 27:1-6). He was a good king, doing that which was right in the sight of Yahweh but the people of Judah did not follow his good example, for they "did yet corruptly."

**AHAZ** — (2 Chronicles 28:1-5). This king was very wicked — he built idols for the worship of Baal, burnt his children to pagan gods, built altars to pagan gods and finally destroyed the furniture of the temple and closed the doors thereof so that worship to Yahweh could not be carried out. God punished him by bringing the armies of Syria, Assyria, Philistia, Edom and Israel against him (2 Chronicles 28:16-17).

**HEZEKIAH** — (2 Chronicles 29:1-2). King Hezekiah was a very good king like David and we will learn of him in the next two lessons.



## WHAT IS A PROPHET?

A prophet is a person who can tell future events — things that are going to happen. Now no *man* can truly do this; only God who knows the end from the beginning can foretell the future (compare Isaiah 41:22-23). God chose certain men whom He set apart for this work and by His spirit He guided them to say the things they did (2 Peter 1:20-21). Isaiah was one of these specially chosen men, and so were Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Zechariah as well as many others.

## SOME WONDERFUL THINGS ISAIAH FORETOLD—

### THE PROPHECY

*Isaiah 7:14* — “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (i.e. God with us).

*Isaiah 9:6-7* — “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David to establish it for ever.”

*Isaiah 11:1-3* — “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD.”

*Isaiah 40:3* — “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness . . .”

*Isaiah 53:3* — “He is despised and rejected of men . . .”

*Isaiah 53:4* — “He was wounded for our transgressions . . .”

### THE FULFILMENT

\* Mary, the mother of Jesus was this woman (Luke 1:27,30-35). Jesus was called Immanuel Matthew 1:23.

\* The child given was the Lord Jesus Christ and he shall sit upon the throne of David justly ruling over the world as a governor. His kingdom will be peaceful, not like the troubled warlike world of today (Luke 1:31-33).

\* This was seen in Jesus for he came in the line of David of the family of Jesse (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32) and the spirit of God rested upon him (Matthew 3:16) so that he was able to understand the ways of God and also the thoughts and intents of men (Luke 2:52; John 2:25).

\* This was fulfilled by the message which John the Baptist proclaimed (Matthew 3:3).

Israel rejected Jesus (Luke 23:22).

\* Jesus died that our sins can be forgiven (John 1:29).



All these prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ were given about 700 years before he was born. They have all been fulfilled, except in one or two points which are still future; and they show that God's Word is true.

With all the trouble that had come upon Israel, God had not left them without a message of hope. For those who wanted to receive instruction from God, the prophets had a message of encouragement. For example, Isaiah foretold the work that Jesus Christ will do when he returns and the glorious kingdom which he will set up on earth — Carefully read Isaiah 2:2-4 which is one place that speaks of this wondrous time. Consider some of the changes that will take place:

1. The Lord's house — the Temple will be established in Zion.
2. All nations will turn to God.
3. People will want to go up to Jerusalem to learn of God's ways.
4. Jesus Christ will judge among the nations of the world.
5. The people of the earth will learn war no more.

These things will come to pass just as surely as the prophecies we have considered about the first coming of the Lord Jesus were fulfilled. What a happy time it will be when Jesus Christ returns!

### **LESSON FOR US:**

Today, when the world is filled with wickedness and sin, people have forgotten God and His word. But Peter says that the words of the prophet are like a light shining in the darkness of the world (2 Peter 1:19-21). We can turn to the word of God and find God's answer to all the problems of this age — for God is soon going to take the wicked from the face of the earth and replace their rule with a kingdom of righteousness and peace under the king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

